

DEVOPS & ITSM

Certified Kubernetes Administrator (CKA) Preparation Training

Delivered from Hacky Security's own curriculum, by instructors who also work our security operations centre. Classroom, online live, or at your office.

INTERMEDIATE

At a glance

COURSE	Certified Kubernetes Administrator (CKA)
TRACK	DevOps & ITSM
DOMAIN	DevOps & Delivery
LEVEL	Intermediate
DURATION	On request
DELIVERY	Classroom · Online live · On-site at your office
LANGUAGE	English
CLASS SIZE	Small cohorts — everyone gets lab time

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- ✓ Instructor-led delivery by practitioners who also work our SOC
- ✓ Hands-on lab access for the duration of the course
- ✓ Course materials and lab guides
- ✓ Hacky Security certificate of completion
- ✓ Post-course support by email

Who this is for

This is an intermediate course. It suits people already working in or moving into DevOps & Delivery who want structured, hands-on preparation rather than a video library. If you are unsure whether the level fits your team, send us the job titles and we will tell you honestly — including if a different course would serve you better.

Course outline

About this course map

Five domains, mapped one-for-one to the CNCF and Linux Foundation CKA curriculum and taught in the same order, so nothing the exam draws on is left uncovered. Each domain below carries its published weighting, and we give it classroom and lab time in proportion — which for CKA means most of the time is at a terminal, because the exam is.

The CKA curriculum is versioned against Kubernetes itself. The current curriculum tracks Kubernetes v1.35, and the exam environment is updated to the newest minor release within roughly four to eight weeks of it shipping. The domains have not moved, but the competencies inside them were refreshed on 18 February 2025: the Cluster Architecture domain now expects Helm and Kustomize, the extension interfaces (CNI, CSI, CRI), and installing and configuring operators and custom resource definitions, while Services and Networking now expects the Gateway API alongside Ingress. It is the exam date, not the purchase date, that decides which version you sit.

This is Hacky Security's own preparation course for the CKA. It is not Linux Foundation courseware, and the exam, its simulator access and the certification come from the CNCF and the Linux Foundation directly.

Domain 01 — Cluster Architecture, Installation and Configuration

Standing up a cluster, controlling who can do what inside it, and keeping it running across its life. 25% of the exam.

- Role-based access control: roles, bindings and scoping permissions to what a workload needs
- Preparing the underlying infrastructure before a cluster is installed
- Creating and managing clusters with kubeadm
- Managing the cluster lifecycle, including version upgrades
- Implementing and configuring a highly available control plane
- Installing cluster components with Helm and Kustomize
- Understanding the extension interfaces — CNI, CSI, CRI and the rest — and what each plugs into
- Working with custom resource definitions, and installing and configuring operators

Domain 02 — Workloads and Scheduling

Running applications on the cluster and controlling where and how the scheduler places them. 15% of the exam.

- Application deployments, and performing rolling updates and rollbacks
- Using ConfigMaps and Secrets to configure applications without rebuilding them
- Configuring workload autoscaling to match demand
- The primitives behind robust, self-healing deployments
- Configuring pod admission and scheduling with limits, node affinity and related controls
- Reading a workload's state to understand why it is or is not running

Domain 03 — Services and Networking

Connecting pods to one another and exposing them to the world beyond the cluster. 20% of the exam.

- Connectivity between pods and the model that underlies it
- Defining and enforcing network policies to control traffic
- Service types — ClusterIP, NodePort, LoadBalancer — and working with endpoints
- Using the Gateway API to manage ingress traffic

- Ingress controllers and Ingress resources
- Understanding and using CoreDNS for service discovery inside the cluster

Domain 04 — Storage

Giving stateful workloads durable storage and controlling how it is provisioned and reclaimed. 10% of the exam.

- Implementing storage classes and dynamic volume provisioning
- Configuring volume types, access modes and reclaim policies
- Managing persistent volumes and persistent volume claims
- Binding storage to workloads that need it
- Choosing the right storage behaviour for a given application
- Reasoning about what happens to data when a claim or volume is removed

Domain 05 — Troubleshooting

The largest domain, because a running cluster spends most of its life being diagnosed. 30% of the exam.

- Troubleshooting clusters and the nodes that make them up
- Troubleshooting the individual cluster components when the control plane misbehaves
- Monitoring resource usage across the cluster and its applications
- Managing and reading container output streams to find what failed
- Troubleshooting services and networking when connectivity breaks
- Working under time pressure from a symptom back to a root cause

Who should take this

System administrators, DevOps and platform engineers, site reliability engineers, and developers who have to operate the clusters their applications run on. It also suits engineers who use Kubernetes through a managed service and now need to understand what sits underneath it.

You should be comfortable on the Linux command line and with containers before you start — the exam gives you a terminal and a set of broken or unbuilt clusters and expects you to work fast. Prior Kubernetes exposure helps but is not assumed; there are no formal prerequisites. The difficulty is in the speed and the breadth, not in trick questions: everything is something a working administrator does, but you have to do it without a search engine and against the clock.

The exam

The CKA is set and awarded by the CNCF and the Linux Foundation. It is performance-based — there are no multiple-choice questions. You are dropped into live clusters from the command line and given tasks to solve.

- Online and remotely proctored, with two hours to complete the tasks
- A score of 66% or above is required to pass
- One free retake is included with the exam registration
- Two attempts at the Killer.sh exam simulator come with the registration
- The environment runs the current Kubernetes version — v1.35 at present — and tracks new releases within weeks
- The certification is valid for two years, renewed by passing the exam again before it expires

The exam registration is purchased separately from the Linux Foundation, and you book and sit it through them directly. We prepare you for it; the certification and simulator access are part of their offering, not ours.

How we deliver it

Classroom or online live, or at your office for a private group. Most of the time is spent at a terminal against real clusters, including ones we have broken on purpose so you practise diagnosis rather than recitation. We drill kubectl fluency and time management deliberately, because the exam is won on speed as much as on knowledge. Small cohorts, so everyone gets hands-on time.

Mapped to the CNCF and Linux Foundation CKA curriculum for the current Kubernetes version. Taught from Hacky Security's own curriculum and lab clusters by instructors who run Kubernetes in production. This is preparation for the CKA; the exam, simulator and certification come from the Linux Foundation.

Sitting the official exam

Exam voucher sold separately. We buy it from the certification body on your behalf and send you the code — you book your own exam date. This course is Hacky Security's own preparation training. The certification itself is awarded by the certification body, not by us.

Investment

Priced per cohort. Tell us how many people and which delivery mode and we will send a quote the same working day.

Book this course

Tell us how many people, where, and when — we will come back with dates and a quote within one working day.

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<https://hackysecurity.com/courses/devops-itsm-certified-kubernetes-administrator-cka/>

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